

DUXBURY FREE LIBRARY

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Newcomers give library a hand

Groups combine
for print sale as
part of tour

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This year, the Duxbury Newcomers have partnered with the Duxbury Free Library during the Newcomers' annual house tour to help foster a community partnership.

Mollie O'Hara, first vice president of the Newcomers, said the library contacted the Newcomers to help sell prints of the Duxbury Bay Mural, created by two Duxbury students 10 years ago when the library moved into its current location, to raise funds for the Friends of the Duxbury Free Library. O'Hara said the Newcomers invited the Friends to come to the Winsor House prior to the tour to make arrangements.



This 1946 gambrel has four-to-eleven windows the inside view of Duxbury Bay

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for the fundraising event and hopefully boost sales.

"One thing about Newcomers is we raise a decent amount of money to go back into the community and leverage our membership for other groups to help other groups in town to get what they need accomplished," O'Hara said.

"The library is fabulous; whatever we can do to help them raise money is great."

Ten years ago, when the library moved into its current building from the Wright Building, children's librarian Nancy Denman learned about two young artists from town, Anna Conway and John Hodany, who had created several murals for local homes in the area. Denman asked the Friends if they would be interested in funding the students to create a mural for the children's room in the library.

For the 10th anniversary celebration of the new library, the Friends held a ceremony in honor of the mural creators and replica prints of the mural were created for sale to benefit the Friends. Prints of the mural will be on sale for \$125 for small prints, and large

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er prints will be \$200.

Combining their artistic talents, Conway and Hodany created a mural capturing the history and flavor of Duxbury through the seascape that surrounds the town. The mural features the 880-ton ship "Hope," built in Duxbury by Weston, as well as a distant Standish Monument. On the mural a cat can be found at the end of the dock gazing into the bay with "Famous Friendship Between Fin & Fur" and birds hovering over a seagull while it reads "The Birds and the Bees."

The mural, which depicts the seaside of Duxbury, fits with this year's "Coastal Elegance: Fine Examples of Seaside Living," house tour Tuesday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This week's featured houses are a renovated 1946 gambrel steps from the ocean and the 1808 King Caesar House facing out toward Duxbury Bay.

The 1946 gambrel was gutted

and renovated in 1999 by the current owners. The living room features one of the only remaining original elements, with floor-to-ceiling windows affording views of Duxbury Bay. The owner is an interior designer, and the home reflects her casual style and features many items and artwork collected during her travels around the world.

The owner's charity is the Standish Humane Society. The Standish Humane Society was founded in 1969 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization of volunteers dedicated to the care and placement of stray and abandoned pets in southeastern Massachusetts. Through an active placement and reduced-cost spay/neuter program, Standish Humane Society works to reduce the critical pet overpopulation problem.

The King Caesar House is an example of Federal period architecture. The front rooms, both upstairs and downstairs, remain practically unchanged from the original construction of 1808. The house currently displays a variety of artifacts from the period. Especially notable are wallpapers in the two front parlors, which were imported from France for the King Caesar House; the rare scenic papers attributed to DuFour, restored by a team of experts from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

The charity for this home is the Duxbury Rural & Historical

Society, a non-profit organization seeking to foster a better understanding of the heritage and rural environment of Duxbury. The society's goals are to provide access to its buildings and lands, provide educational programs for the community, collect, preserve and exhibit artifacts relating to Duxbury's history; provide a library and archives for the encouragement of scholarly research; and publish documents of historical interest.

Duxbury Newcomers Club is a nonprofit organization that provides social, recreational and charitable opportunities to its members. The club is also committed to the advancement of education, civic service, social and charitable purposes in and around the South Shore community. The club has served both new and longtime residents of Duxbury since 1965, and the house tour is its largest fundraiser of the season.

Tickets for the tour are \$25 each and can be purchased at Mermaids of Duxbury, The Studio in Duxbury, and Westwinds Bookshop in Duxbury. Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the tour at the Nathaniel Winsor Jr. House at 479 Washington St.

The club will be offering free coffee, tea and baked goods in the morning at the Winsor House. The Newcomers' cookbook, "Welcome to Duxbury II," will be sold at this location, and the Friends of the Duxbury Free Library will also be selling prints of the Duxbury Bay mural print. The signed limited editions by Conway and Hodany will be available for purchase, and all proceeds benefit the library.